

March 2015

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Spring Eggstravaganza set for March 28. See page 3.



Balsam Range playing GPAC March 21. See page 3.

TOWN HALL CALENDAR

March 17: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

March 24: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

April 3: TOWN HALL CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

April 6: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council Chambers in building B at Town Hall, 900 Seventh Ave. Town Council regular meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTVII (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).



Follow us on Twitter (@TownofGarner), Facebook (facebook.com/townofgarner), YouTube (youtube.com/townofgarner) and now Instagram (instagram.com/townofgarner).

GARNER UPDATE

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Show Your Hometown Pride

The opening round for Garner in the N.C. League of Municipalities' Hometown Showdown Facebook photo contest has begun. We're asking everyone to vote for our magnificent and inspiring Garner Veterans Memorial between now and noon Friday so that we can win this round and proceed to the next round starting March 16. The way to vote for the memorial is to "like" the photo (made by Rob Smith) at <http://on.fb.me/1CUR5Wj> (on the N.C. League's Facebook page).

Garner Gets Strong Credit Rating Ahead of Bond Sale

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services has assigned its "AA+" credit rating to the Town of Garner's 2015 general obligation (GO) bonds and affirmed that same rating for the Town's outstanding GO bonds. S&P also said the Town's outlook is stable.

"We believe the Town's conservative budgeting practices, aided by strong management conditions, will help maintain strong budgetary performance," S&P said. "Garner's

strong economic profile, with access to and participation in the deep, diverse Raleigh [metropolitan statistical area], lends additional rating stability."

S&P said job opportunities in metropolitan Raleigh and the nearby Research Triangle Park "have fueled expansion of Garner's population and tax base." The credit rating firm also noted recent developments

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Follow the Town of Garner on Twitter (@TownofGarner) for breaking news.



A Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's State of the Town address on demand at youtube.com/townofgarner.

Spring is finally right around the corner—at least, I think it is. Winter has made itself felt here in Garner the past few weeks. I'm not going to pile on our new groundhog prognosticator, Snerd. He did say we'd be having an early spring—but I'll chalk his prediction up to a rookie mistake.



In any case, you can see that the Town has a bunch of spring things planned at the parks. There is, of course, the

Spring Eggstravaganza, featuring the Town's egg hunts, on Saturday, March 28. That's always a great time. It's one of those signature special events that remind me of the great hometown feel we've managed to maintain even as Garner continues to grow.

Lake Benson boathouse is also opening for the season. The fishing and boating opportunities on that scenic lake are one of the best-kept secrets in the Triangle. There are several other things going on in the parks in March. Please see the next page for details. And, as staff always remind me, following the

Town on one or more its numerous social media accounts is a great way to stay abreast of what's happening in Garner during every season of the year.

And speaking of social media, don't forget to support us in the Hometown Showdown Facebook photo contest (see page 1 for more on that).

See you around town.

Ronnie S. Williams
Ronnie S. Williams

TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM

Rating

continued from page 1

in town, such as the construction of North Carolina's first Cabela's, which is due to open next month.

S&P said its rating reflected the Town's strengths in numerous areas including 1) budget flexibility, with reserves in excess of 75 percent of general fund reserves; 2) budgetary performance, with surpluses in each of the past three fiscal years and 3) liquidity, with very strong cash to cover debt service and expenditures. S&P also cited the Town's "good financial policies" and "very strong institutional framework."

The S&P credit rating comes ahead of a \$14.67 million bond issuance by the Town on or around March 17. The issuance is part of

a \$35.7 million bond program approved overwhelmingly by Garner voters in March 2013. Last year, the Town issued approximately \$9.8 million in bonds in the program's first issuance.

The bonds are being used to fund numerous projects, including construction of a new police station at 912 Seventh Ave., a new Town Hall on the existing Town Hall campus at 900 Seventh Ave. and an indoor recreation center at the corner of Main and Montague streets in historic downtown Garner.

The bonds will also pay for other needs such as road improvements and new sidewalks in various parts of town.

For detailed information on the Garner bond program, including status updates on projects, please visit garnerbonds.com.



Street Lighting Project Under Way

A crew was spotted installing a street light on Foxwood Drive earlier this month. The installation is part of a street lighting project in the Woodland North area that's an outcome of a neighborhood improvement initiative and is made possible by funds from street and sidewalk improvement bonds approved by voters in March 2013. Duke Energy is overseeing the street light work.



Balsam Range Performs at GPAC March 21

Balsam Range comes to Garner Performing Arts Center (742 W. Garner Road) Saturday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Founded in 2007, Balsam Range consists of five friends with unique experiences and backgrounds that blend together effortlessly to form their distinctive sound.

Since first bursting onto the scene, Balsam Range has definitely made its mark on the bluegrass and acoustic music world. In 2014, the band won three awards from the International Bluegrass Music



Balsam Range brings its acclaimed bluegrass sounds to Garner March 21.

Association: male vocalist of the year, vocal group of the year and entertainer of the year.

To learn more about Balsam Range and other shows coming to GPAC, or to purchase tickets, please visit garnerperforming-artscenter.com.

Plenty to Do in Garner Parks This Month

There's more than just egg hunts going on in Garner's great outdoors in March.

The **Lake Benson boathouse** (975 Buffalo Road) is scheduled to reopen Friday, March 13. Often referred to as "Garner's best kept fishing secret," Lake Benson is a 364-acre water resource known for its excellent bass and crappie fishing. The boathouse features jon boats (with or without trolling motor and battery) and canoes for rent. Boathouse hours of operation are Friday noon-7 p.m., Saturday 7 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday noon-7 p.m. For more information, call (919) 662-5703 or visit the [Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources webpage](#).



You can follow Garner PRCR on Twitter (@GarnerPRCR).

Veterinarians will be at **White Deer Park** (2400 Aversboro Road) to provide **rabies vaccinations** for cats and dogs on Saturday, March 14 from 9 a.m. to noon. Both one- and three-year vaccines will be available for \$10. Proof of one-year vaccination must be shown to be eligible for the one-year vaccination. Pet owners will be provided with a rabies vaccination certificate and tag. Only cash will be accepted.

Join one of our environmental educators to explore the natural world at one of our **programs at White Deer Park Nature Center**. Discovery Days, Toddler Nature Time and Eco-Explorers are held on the first, second and third Thursday of each month, respectively. This month, we also have a night hike scheduled for Friday, March 20. For more information or to sign up for a program, visit garnernc.gov.

While supplies last, White Deer Park Nature Center will be giving away **free black walnut saplings** to celebrate North Carolina Arbor Day on Friday, March 20 from noon to 5 p.m.



Spring into Action at the Park

The Spring Eggstravaganza, featuring the Town of Garner's annual egg hunt, will be held on Saturday, March 28 at Lake Benson Park (921 Buffalo Road). This event includes games, inflatables, crafts, a magician with live animals, face painting and, of course, egg hunts! The event starts at 10 a.m. **EGG HUNTS WILL START PROMPTLY AT NOON.** Learn more by going to garnernc.gov.

Meds Take-Back Event March 21

The Garner Police Department is hosting a medication take-back event on Saturday, March 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at Town Hall, 900 Seventh Ave. (Building B in the Council Chambers). The service is free, anonymous and no questions will be asked.

By providing safe and secure ways for people to get rid of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter

medications, Operation Medicine Drop helps prevent accidental poisonings and drug abuse while also protecting our waters. This take-back event coincides with National Poison Prevention Week, which runs from March 15-21.

More information about Operation Medicine Drop can be found at ncsafekids.org or by calling Sgt. Chris Adams at (919) 773-6072.



Town Announces Unprepared Trash Pickup Dates

Public Works has set the schedule for the spring unprepared trash and yard waste pickup:

- * **Monday (red and gray) and Wednesday (orange and white) routes:** service on April 13.
- * **Thursday (purple and yellow) and Friday (brown only) routes:** service on April 20.
- * **Friday (blue only) and Tuesday (green, gold and tan) routes:** service on April 27.



Find all Town news releases at garnernc.gov.

Residents can place trash, some bulky waste items and up to four rimless tires behind the curb for collection. No appliances or hazardous wastes will be collected. Also, no waste produced by any commercial tree service or other commercial activity/paid services will be picked up. Household items and yard waste to be collected can be placed behind the curb up to one week prior to the designated Monday for your route. Televisions and computer equipment also will be collected. Please make separate piles for yard waste, trash and bulk wastes.



Hatcher Honored for Service

Lt. Len Hatcher (center) retired last month from the Garner Police Department after serving for nearly 28 years. Hatcher was most recently the police department's special operations commander. Chief Brandon Zuidema commended Hatcher for his outstanding leadership and humility. Hatcher was presented with his firearm and badge during a recognition at the March 2 Town Council meeting.

Raleigh Utilities Doing Force Main Work in Park

The City of Raleigh Public Utilities has launched a construction project that will affect White Deer Park over the next several months.

A new force main sewer line is being installed from the pump station located on the western side of the park, which will go to Aversboro Road and then south on Buffalo Road. During this time, sections of the South Garner Greenway/White Deer Loop Trail will be closed to pedestrians. The City of Raleigh and Town of Garner will make every effort to minimize inconvenience to park visitors, including identifying alternate access to allow for continued use of trails.

For questions about this project, or to receive regular e-mail updates about it, contact Janeen Goodwin at janeen.goodwin@raleighnc.gov or (919) 996-3494.



Trails at White Deer Park will be affected for a few months by a force main sewer line project being performed by City of Raleigh Public Utilities. Visitors can look for signage to explain trail closures and alternate trail options.